for depositing the overcharged amount by 22-11-1991. The assessed overcharged amount includes interest also.

(g) The company has already been asked to do so without any further delay.

(h) As already answered in reply to parts (c) & (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 674 dated 28-11-1991, no other instance of violation has come to the notice of the Government

Principles adopted by BICP

3085. SHRI R. S. NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 672 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th Septembre, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given up principles adopted by BICP allowing average hike in prices of raw materials at the time of cost-cum-technical study; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

TNE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) BICP, at the time of Cost-cum-Technical Study in respect of any bulk drug, takes into account the latest purchase invoices for raw-materials and utilities. BICP, in their report, also provide for an escalation formula to cover increase in input costs if any subsequent the report.

Irregularities and Corruption in Sindhri Unit of F.C.I.

3086. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether through a memorandum submitted in May, 1987 cases of gross irregularities, malpractices and corruption resulting in a loss to the tune of Rs. 2500 crores to the Sindhri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India has been brought to the notice of Government and certain documents to substantiate the allegations were also furnished;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry into the matter has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the level at which the inquiry was held stating the terms of reference; and

(e) the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government against those found involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (e) The Government is not aware of any irregularities, malpractices and corruption in the Sindhri Unit of FCI that have resulted in losses to the tune of Rs. 2500 crores. The Government is, however, prepared to investigate any specific case of irregularity that is brought to its notice.

Production of DAP

3087. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of production of Di Ammonia Phosphate (DAP) in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that DAP can be produced at competitive prices in the country even after importing Phosphoric Acid;

(c) if so, how much production capacity is likely to be increased thereby; and

(d) what are the guidelines for issueing permission for such production activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c) Government has identified a few projects for augmenting the capacity of Di Ammonium Phosphate

(DAP) in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan. The 8th Plan has, however, not been finalised.

(b) The international prices of DAP as also Phosphoric Acid are subject to fluctuations. Normally, it is not possible to produce DAP indigenously at a competitive price based on imported Phosphoric Acid.

(d) At present, there is no need for a licence for the production of fertilizers including DAP. The Government will, however, encouraged, wherever possible, retrofitting and revamping of existing plants compared to setting up of new plants since this can be achieved at relatively lower capital costs.

Grant of Product—Patents for Drugs

3088. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to grant product-patents for drugs are under consideration;

(b) if so, give details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to frame new set of rules and regulations while granting product-patents of drugs;

(d) whether any progress has since been made;

(e) if so, the details thereof with benefits to accrue therefrom; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTAMOHAN): (a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fixing the prices of fertilizers

3089. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the prices of fertilizers have been fiexd on international price basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cost of production of fertilizer is less in India than in foreign countries; and

(c) whether there is any scope for reduction in fertilizer prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While the cost of production of fertilisers in some production units are less than the comparable price of imported fertilizers in the feed-stock prices and cost of imported raw materials.

(c) Because of increase in input prices and capital cost of new plants, cost of production of fertilizers has been increasing. However, the question whether there is any scope for reduction in the prices of fertilizers is one of the terms of reference of a recently constituetd Parliamentary Committee.

Amount due under Equalisation Fund Account

3090. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 670 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1991 and state:

(a) what was the amount due under Equalisation Fund Account on 1st January, 1991 and on 1st December, 1991 and what are the names of companies from whom amount was recovered during this period; and

(b) what is the balance amount available under DPEA as on 1st December, 1991 and how much amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTAMOHAN: (a) No amount has been received during the period 1.1.1991 to 1.12.1991